

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The device according to claim 21, further comprising

means for recording the supply speed of the object being moved, said means transmitting measuring signals proportional to the supply speed to the control system, the control system controlling the movement of the thermal print head depending on the recorded supply speed.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 21,

wherein the first drive has a slider-crank mechanism.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 21,

wherein the first drive has an adjustable stroke length in the feed direction and counter to the feed direction of the at least one object to be printed.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) : The device according to claim 21,

wherein the thermal print head is attached to a support mounted in a sliding guide, said support carrying a the second drive ~~for moving the thermal print head onto the at least one object to be printed and away from the at least one object.~~.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) : The device according to claim 21, further comprising

a cam disk for bringing the thermal print head in contact with the at least one object to be printed against the action of a spring element.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented) : The device according to claim 17,

wherein the second drive has at least one piezo-actuator.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented) : The device according to claim 21, further comprising
a plate-shaped counter-bearing opposite to the thermal print head, the back side of the at least one object to be printed sliding over said counter-bearing during feed of the at least one object.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended) : A device for printing at least one object moving at a supply speed in a feed direction comprising:

- (a) a thermal print head;
- (b) means for supplying the at least one object to be printed to the thermal print head;
- (c) a first drive for moving the thermal print head parallel to or counter to the feed direction of the at least one object to be printed; and
- (d) a second drive for moving the thermal print head onto the at least one object to be printed and away from the at least one object; and
- (e) a control system for controlling the first drive and the second drive;

said first drive being controlled by the control system such
so that during movement of the thermal print head parallel to the
feed direction of the at least one object the thermal print head
has a speed less than or equal to the supply speed of the at
least one object being moved; and

said second drive being controlled by the control system
such that during movement of the thermal print head counter to
the feed direction of the at least one object the thermal print
head is moved at a distance away from the at least one object.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended) : The device according to claim 21, wherein the first drive has a piezo-actuator.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented) : The device according to claim 21, further comprising a circular disk with an eccentrically arranged axis of rotation for bringing the thermal print head in contact with the at least one object to be printed against the action of a spring element.